



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWELVE YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED IN CASE USING NEW DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE STATUTE**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 33-year-old Damian Alejandro Rosales-Chavez was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to interstate domestic violence and was sentenced to an additional 2 years after pleading guilty to interstate violation of a protection order in connection with the October 2004 abduction of Reyna Isabel Franco.

In pleading guilty, Rosales-Chavez admitted that in October 2004, he abducted his estranged wife, Reyna Isabel Franco in Kansas City, Kansas. Rosales-Chavez was in route to Mexico when he was arrested at a motel in Van Horn, Texas a few days after the abduction. After Rosales-Chavez fell asleep, Franco was able to call her brother in San Antonio and describe her surroundings. Shortly thereafter, a Van Horn Sheriff's deputy located Rosales-Chavez at the motel.

The charges in the case arose from a new federal law that protects innocent spouses and intimate partners from this type of harassment. When the abduction occurred, Rosales-Chavez was already in violation of a protective order prohibiting him from communication or coming within contact with Franco.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Van Horn Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Dwight Goains prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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